

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first center column is axially disposed within said second center column.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the library comprises walls arranged around a central axis and the storage units are stored in cells in the walls.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of said center columns is substantially cylindrical.

Please add the following new claim:

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22. (new) A data storage and retrieval system adapted to operate within a library service module having an array of cells configured to receive data storage units, the system comprising:

a first robot unit, wherein the first robot unit transports a data storage unit to and from the array of cells; and

a second robot unit, located within the polygonal array of cells, wherein the second robot unit, independently with respect to the first robot unit, manipulates data storage units placed in the array of cells.

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REMARKS

Applicants have submitted proposed corrections to the drawing labeled Figure 12 in red ink. These changes will be incorporated into a formal set of drawings upon approval of the proposed changes by the Examiner.

Applicants provisionally elect claims 1-7, which represent species G, with traverse. Applicants hereby withdraw claims 8-21. Applicants disagree with Examiner's conclusion that Examiner's ten proffered "species" represent "independent and distinct" sets of claims and have acquired a separate status in the art. Restriction for examination

purposes is not proper in this instance. Applicants believe claims 8-21 are examinable for the same basic reasons as claims 1-7 and, therefore, would impose no further burden on Examiner. However, in order to expedite the consideration of at least some of these claims, Applicants make the above election with traverse.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 22 is generic with respect to species B-J. Figures 7-15, which describe species B-J, all describe at least two robot units adapted to operate within a library service module (which module is left out of some of the figures for clarity—see page 12, lines 24-28), that manipulate data storage units in the array of cells within a storage module independently (see Figure 3 for a detailed depiction of a library storage module, including the array of cells

Thus claim 22 reads on species B-J and is thus generic with respect to those species. Upon allowance of generic claim 22, it is Applicants' intent to resubmit the cancelled claims, which incorporate the same subject matter as claim 22.

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Respectfully submitted,



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